

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1169

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tommy Young on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Young is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty years as General Manager of the Hawkins County Gas Utility and for a total of fifty-three years in the natural gas industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young recently took a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, while studying at East Tennessee State University, Tommy Young worked as a Night Service Man from 1955 to 1958. From 1958 to 1964, he was a Service Manager for Johnson City and Elizabethton Properties before becoming Operations Manager in 1964; and

WHEREAS, between 1968 and 1978, Mr. Young was the General Manager for Jefferson-Cocke County Utility District; in demonstration of his laudable leadership abilities, he guided the district from operating under the control of the Federal Bankruptcy Court to maintaining excellent credit ratings with all bond and interest payments being current; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1978, Tommy Young took over the management of the Natural Gas Utility District of Hawkins County as General Manager, taking the utility from a fifteen-year history of default on bond and interest payments to being current on all back debts by 1980 and entirely debt free since 1998; largely due to his expertise, *Gas Industries Magazine* rated Hawkins County Gas as the seventh fastest growing distribution system in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an integral contributor to the natural gas industry as a whole, Mr. Young has served in many professional organizations. He has been a member of the Tennessee Gas Association for forty years, serving at various times as President, Board Member, Chairman of

the Legislative Committee, Chairman of the Convention Committee, Chairman of the Marketing Committee, and Chairman of the Customer Service Committee; his service to the organization has been recognized with an Honorary Lifetime Membership and the 2003 Silver Flame Award for Outstanding Service to the Natural Gas Industry; and

WHEREAS, he also has served the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts as President, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, and Chairman of the Membership Committee, and he has been honored with the association's M.M. Bullard Award for Financial and Operational Excellence; he has further served his profession as a member and Chairman of the United Small Customer Group of the original Tennessee Public Service Commission's "One Call" Board and as a member of the Southern Gas Association, the Southeastern Gas Association, and the American Public Gas Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Tommy Young, willing to risk his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, accumulated twenty-two years of active and reserve military service, retiring with the rank of Infantry Captain; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual of the highest order, Mr. Young has rendered sterling service as President of the Newport Kiwanis Club, President of the Rogersville Rotary Club, President of the Cocke County Shrine Club, President of the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Capital Campaign for Sequoyah Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Chairman of the Job Service Employers Committee for Hawkins and Hancock Counties, Honorary Tennessee Colonel, Honorary Delegate to the 1977 Tennessee Constitutional Convention, President of the Rogersville Heritage Association, President of the United Way of Hawkins County, and President of the Hawkins County Home Builders; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as a Board Member and Treasurer of the United Way of Hawkins County, Board Member and Treasurer of the Child Advocacy Center for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District of Tennessee, Board Member of the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of the Board of Governors of Wellmont Hospital Foundation, Vice Chairman of the Hawkins County Industrial Development Board, Board Member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Rogersville Rotary Club, member of the Johnson City Lodge 486 of the Free and Accepted Masons, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason and Shriner, member of the Kingsport Moose Lodge,

and Founder, Board Member, and Secretary of the First Community Bank of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards, Tommy Young was selected Boss of the Year by the American Business Women's Association in 1985 and was named a finalist in the Greater Tri-Cities Business Alliance Executive of the Year Award competition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young evinces his devout religious faith as an active member of his church, which he serves as a Sunday school teacher, Youth Director, Deacon, and Elder; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Tommy Young is perhaps most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Billie VanderVoort; his three children, Kelly Williams, Craig "Bo" Young, and Julie John; and his three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Young exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Young has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and clients alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Tommy Young our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, as we applaud his laudable tenure in the natural gas industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.